

FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927 Fairfax, VA 22035-1118

For Immediate Release

Judy Pedersen, PIO

E-mail: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov

November 2, 2007

PSA-123

E-mail: <u>parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov</u> Press Inquiries: 703-324-8662

Help Remove Invasive Plants From Riverbend Park

Throughout Fairfax County, plants such as bamboo and Japanese wisteria are growing rapidly, colonizing and out-competing native plants commonly found in parks. On Saturday, November 10, 2007 from 10 a.m. to noon, the Fairfax County Park Authority invites you to lend a hand at Riverbend Park and contribute to the Invasive Plant Control Project.

Invasive plants are one of the biggest threats to our native ecosystems. Because of their aggressive growth and lack of natural enemies in our region, these species can be highly destructive, competitive, and difficult to control. These invaders compete with native plants and animals in many ways: occupying space, changing the structure of the plant community and animal habitat, eliminating favored foods and causing physical and chemical alterations to the soil.

Families and children eight and older are asked to stroll through the meadows of Riverbend and learn about invasive plants and their threat to our ecosystem. Compete for prizes and more importantly, give back to the community! This event is free, but reservations are required. For more information, please call 703-759-9018.

Riverbend Park is located at 8700 Potomac Hills St. in Great Falls.

###

